

# **Lile R. Gibbons**

## *Biography*

State Representative Lile R. Gibbons' hard work, attention to detail and organizational skills have made her a highly-effective advocate for Greenwich and a valued member of the House Republican leadership team.

House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward, R-86th District, recognized Representative Gibbons' leadership ability and achievements on the Human Services Committee during her first term by appointing her as the committee's House Ranking member (Republican Leader) for the 2003 and 2004 legislative sessions.

She was reappointed to the position for the 2005 and 2006 legislative sessions.

In addition, Representative Gibbons serves on the General Assembly's Finance, Revenue & Bonding and Transportation committees.

As a member of the Finance Committee, Representative Gibbons has opposed efforts to raise the state income tax on taxpayers earning \$1 million or more annually. She has supported efforts to reduce the state income and other taxes and to increase the property tax credit residents can take against their income tax liability.

Representative Gibbons' commitment to relieving traffic congestion in Fairfield County and elsewhere in Connecticut led her to seek appointment to the Transportation Committee during her first term in 2001 – 2002; in 2003 – 2004 and again in 2005 – 2006.

As a member of the Transportation Committee, Representative Gibbons is working to alleviate traffic congestion on I-95 and state roads in Greenwich and elsewhere in Fairfield County. Representative Gibbons supports measures to encourage increased use of rail commuter lines.

Under legislation Representative Gibbons cosponsored in 2004, the sale of \$25 million in state bonds was authorized, which, when combined with \$35 million in previously approved funding, provided the Department of Transportation with a total of \$60 million to purchase new railcars for Metro North and improve commuter rail service in Fairfield County.

Gaining enactment of the Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board Act was one of Representative Gibbons' major accomplishments during her first term in the state House of Representatives. The board developed a comprehensive statewide plan to relieve traffic congestion and to meet future transportation demands. Because traffic congestion is especially severe in Fairfield County, the board focused most of its initial attention on Fairfield County transportation problems.

Representative Gibbons also worked to secure state funding for several other Greenwich projects, including:

- A \$138,059 grant to help pay for an expansion and renovation project at the Byram Schubert Branch Library.
- A \$1,012,706 grant to reduce the cost of the \$4,974,000 Western Middle School renovation and expansion project to the town.
- A \$40,000 grant for the Transportation Association of Greenwich. The grant was used to purchase a new van to enable TAG to continue providing quality transportation services to seniors, disabled residents and children.
- A \$175,000 grant for the Bruce Museum. The grant funded an architectural study to determine the museum's long-term needs. The museum has grown rapidly over the past few years and its galleries and classrooms are often overcrowded and its collections and exhibition areas have been stretched to capacity.

Under laws cosponsored by Representative Gibbons during the 2004 and 2003 legislative session:

- Water companies are encouraged to sell land adjacent to their reservoirs to buyers who would preserve the properties for passive recreation and open space rather than developing them for commercial or residential uses.
- No reservoir can be abandoned unless the Commissioner of Public Health has determined it will not be necessary to meet the future water supply needs of the state.
- Proposed new power lines would be less likely to be built near schools, playgrounds, and other areas where children congregate, which would lessen the threat of exposure to potentially harmful electromagnetic fields.
- A tactic that has been used to circumvent current zoning regulations in older Fairfield County subdivisions will no longer be a threat. The law prevents developers from using subdivision plans approved many years ago (which exempted those properties from changes made in zoning regulations after construction was completed) to skirt current zoning regulations.
- Municipal and state agencies cannot be required to transcribe and preserve voice mail messages left on telephone answering machines - making it virtually impossible for the state Freedom of Information Commission to impose another mandate on state and local government. Preserving thousands of routine voice mail messages would have added major costs to local and state government and led to tax increases.
- The state is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of a regional effort to address the problem of global warming.
- Connecticut residents have the option of choosing Medical Savings Accounts over conventional health insurance plans. Individuals and families who open MSAs can make annual tax-deductible contributions to their accounts. Interest earnings are tax-free, as is the case with funds withdrawn to pay for medical expenses.

Representative Gibbons was honored by the State of Connecticut Greenways Council with its 2002 Legislative Award for her efforts to secure funding and resources for pedestrian and bicycle greenways throughout Connecticut.

Representative Gibbons' ultimate goal is to see an interconnected greenways system established in Connecticut for everyone who values and enjoys our state's natural beauty.

Representative Gibbons' work experience includes part-time employment with Odin Partners, Investment Advisors, NYC, from 1989 to the present; and as a partner at Earthworks of Greenwich, LLC, from 1997 to the present.

Representative Gibbons is especially knowledgeable on education issues, having served nine years on the Greenwich Board of Education from 1991 through 2000. She served as Chairman of the Board of Education from 1997 through 2000 and on the Western Middle School Building Committee. She was a member of the Connecticut State Board of Higher Education from 1995 through 2000.

Representative Gibbons is a member of the Greenwich Republican Town Committee.

Her past community service includes membership on the board of the Arch Street Teen Center; the Distinguished Teachers Committee (co-chair); Friends of the Greenwich Library; the Advisory Board of the Children's Day School; Greenwich High School and North Street School PTA executive committees; Hortulus Garden Club; Representative Town Meeting; Smith College Club of Greenwich-Stamford (past president); United Way Planning Council; and the Smith College Alumnae Association (past director).

Representative Gibbons graduated from Smith College with a BA in Economics.

She is married to John A. Gibbons Jr. They have four children and five grandchildren.